CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

INVOCATION
Pastor Steve Felton of Church of Nazarene gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
Councilmember Trujillo led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Lavagnino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT
Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino.

ALSO PRESENT
City Manager Ness, Interim City Attorney Stockton, Assistant City Manager Haydon, Director of Administrative Services Snodgrass, Director of Public Works Karp, Librarian Pinelli, Police Chief Macagni, Director of Utilities Chisam, Planning Division Manager Bierdzinski, Assistant Fire Chief Moreno, Recreation Services Manager Rodriguez, Risk Manager Cashmore, and Records Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk Garietz.

RESOLUTION – TERRI LEE COLEMAN
Mayor Lavagnino read a resolution commending Terri Lee Coleman for her outstanding service to the residents of Santa Maria as a member of the All-America City Committee.

Resolution No. 2004-172 was adopted on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, Mayor Lavagnino
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Mayor Lavagnino presented the resolution to Terri Lee Coleman.

PROCLAMATION – SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH
Councilmember Orach read a proclamation declaring September 2004 as Suicide Prevention Month in the City of Santa Maria and encouraging the residents of Santa Maria to recognize that suicides are a public health problem and suicide prevention is a community responsibility. The proclamation was presented to Joyce Ellen Lippman, Executive Director of Area Agency on Aging.

Ms. Lippman thanked the City Council for honoring the survivors of suicide with the proclamation. She mentioned that a flyer has been produced and is available to the public on "How to Prevent a Suicide." She announced that on September 23 at Allan Hancock College, the Glendon Association and a number of local organizations are having the 10th Annual Community Suicide Prevention Workshop in Santa Maria and extended an invitation to everyone.

PROCLAMATION – VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE
Councilmember Mariscal asked that everyone keep the men and women that are serving in the armed forces, that may be in harm's way or outside the borders of the United States, in our hearts and minds and pray for their safe return to their communities and loved ones.

Councilmember Mariscal read a proclamation commending Vandenberg Air Force Base for its many significant and valuable contributions to the City of Santa Maria and neighboring communities. The proclamation was presented to Lt. Col. Brian Pletcher, Deputy Commander of Operations Group – Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Lt. Col. Brian Pletcher gave thanks for support of those military personnel deployed overseas in current operations. He thanked the City Council on behalf of 30th Space Wing Commander Col. Frank Gallegos and the entire Team Vandenberg community for the proclamation and partnership with the City of Santa Maria.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH
Councilmember Patino presented Noah Gonzales, Leah Illif, Vanessa Pulido, Linda Salazar, and Logan Smith, the Recreation and Parks Volunteers of the Month for September 2004, with a gift for their time and effort in becoming volunteer Junior Lifeguards and committing numerous hours assisting staff at the Paul Nelson Aquatic Center. Vanessa Pulido, Linda Salazar and Logan Smith were not present to accept their gift.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Mayor Lavagnino requested Item 2N be pulled for discussion.

Councilmember Mariscal requested Item 2O be pulled for discussion.

Item 2N – Call for Bids – Library Parking Structure
Mayor Lavagnino announced the Call for Bids for the Library Parking Structure and indicated that it commences the $25 million new Library that will be located to the south of City Hall. It is hopeful that groundbreaking will happen by December 2004 or January 2005. The parking structure is the initial step in getting the library built.

Item 2O – Call for Bids - Street Overlay - 2004
Councilmember Mariscal announced the Call for Bids for the annual Street Overlay projects. He stated that he felt fortunate to live in a community where the City does invest in its infrastructure and take the time to make sure that the roads and streets are paved and kept up for its citizens. While attending a recent League of California Cities conference, he learned that recycled tires are being used for re-paving streets and roads. He suggested the City look into this new technology and indicated that it reduces accumulation of the landfill material and lengthens the useful life of the City's streets and roads.

Councilmember Patino mentioned that the County of Santa Barbara and City of Solvang already use the recycled tire material to resurface the streets and roads.

Consent Calendar Items A through T were accepted, approved with the indicated action, and ordered ratified on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

A. ORDINANCES
The reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions was waived. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar will be adopted by the same vote cast at the first reading unless City Council indicates otherwise.

B. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of September 7, 2004, were approved as submitted.

C. AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES
Resolution No. 2004-173 was adopted approving an agreement for Animal Control Services for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

Resolution No. 2004-173 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.

D. BOND RELEASE – RIVER OAKS NORTH, TRACT 5778 - PHASES 1, 2 & 3, AND 4
Authorization was granted to release the Faithful Performance Bonds for River Oaks North, Tract 5778: Phase 1, $117,800; Phases 2 & 3, $94,075; and Phase 4, $45,976, with the order

that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bonds be held until March 2005 and the Planting and Irrigation Maintenance Bonds be held until September 2005.

E. BOND RELEASE – DAL PORTO VILLAS, TRACT 5790
Authorization was granted to release a Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of $76,775 for the construction and installation of boundary walls, with the order that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bond be held until March 2005.

Authorization was granted to release a Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of $6,500 for the installation of public landscaping and irrigation, with the order that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bond be held until March 2005 and the Planting and Irrigation Maintenance Bond be held until September 2005.

F. PROPOSITION 68 AND PROPOSITION 70
Resolution No. 2004-174 was adopted in opposition to Proposition 68: the Gaming Revenue Act of 2004, and Proposition 70: the Indian Gaming Fair-Share Revenue Act, on the November 2, 2004 Statewide ballot, due to the direct negative financial impact of these propositions on the City's budget.

Resolution No. 2004-174 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 68, "GAMING REVENUE ACT OF 2004" AND PROPOSITION 70, "INDIAN GAMING FAIR-SHARE REVENUE ACT."

G. WARRANTS
Warrant Nos. 115051 to 115327 in the amount of $1,763,314.10 were ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services. Warrant Nos. 115008, 115009, and 115012 were canceled.

H. PAYROLL
Payment of payroll was ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Heads as shown on records on file in the Administrative Services Department and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services.

I. LOCAL AGENCY WORKERS' COMPENSATION
Resolution No. 2004-175 was adopted authorizing the City to become a member of the Local Agency Workers' Compensation Excess Joint Powers Authority.

Resolution No. 2004-175 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL AGENCY WORKERS' COMPENSATION EXCESS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AND TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONSENT TO SELF-INSURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITIES.

J. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN
Resolution No. 2004-176 was adopted amending the City's Deferred Compensation Plan to conform to new Treasury Regulations.

Resolution No. 2004-176 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DEFERRED COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN AND ALLOWING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS ATTRIBUTED TO ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTIONS TO A PARTICIPANT UPON REQUEST IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

K. ABC LICENSE – HOLBROOK WINES
A Notice from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control of an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License in an existing warehouse for Holbrook Wines located at 2643 Industrial Parkway was noted and filed.

L. ABC LICENSE – HARRISON CLARKE VINEYARDS
A Notice from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control of an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License in an existing warehouse for Harrison Clarke Vineyards located at 2717 Aviation Way, Suite E31 was noted and filed.

M. ABC LICENSE – CHUCK E. CHEESE'S
A Notice from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control of an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License in a proposed restaurant for which a conditional use permit was approved [U2004-011] (Type 41, On-Sale Beer and Wine) for Chuck E. Cheese's located at 2254 South Bradley Road was noted and filed.

N. CALL FOR BIDS – LIBRARY PARKING STRUCTURE
Approval was granted to call for bids on the plans and specifications for Library Parking Structure, Bid No. 2005/03.

O. CALL FOR BIDS – STREET OVERLAY 2004
Approval was granted to call for bids on the plans and specifications for Street Overlay – 2004, Bid No. 2005/07.

P. NOTICE OF CONTRACT COMPLETION – BROADWAY OPTICOM
Council approved the filing of a Notice of Contract Completion for the Broadway Opticom, Bid No. 2004/06.

Q. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM
Resolution No. 2004-177 was adopted authorizing the City Manager to sign the City's revised Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan and establish an annual goal of 8 percent per Federal regulations.

Resolution No. 2004-177 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE UPDATED DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL DBE GOAL OF EIGHT PERCENT.

R. VACATING A TURNAROUND EASEMENT
Resolution No. 2004-178 was adopted summarily vacating a turnaround easement located along the northern edge of Monterey Road and dedicated as part of Park Villas I, Tract 5568.

Resolution No. 2004-178 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA SUMMARILY VACATING PURSUANT TO STREETS & HIGHWAYS CODE, PART 3, CHAPTER 4, §8334(a), A TURNAROUND EASEMENT ON MONTEREY ROAD APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET EAST OF SAN ANTONIO ROAD.

S. VACATING A ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT
Resolution No. 2004-179 was adopted summarily vacating a 12 foot road and utility easement located along the southern property line of 324 North Suey Road, owned by Christian Family Church.

Resolution No. 2004-179 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA SUMMARILY VACATING PURSUANT TO STREETS & HIGHWAYS CODE, PART 3, CHAPTER 4, §8333(a), A 12 FOOT ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG THE SOUTHERN PROPERTY LINE OF 324 NORTH SUEY ROAD.

T. 2002 RESOURCES BOND ACT
Resolution No. 2004-180 was adopted approving an application through the competitive grant process for 2002 Resources Bond Act funds for the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program.

Resolution No. 2004-180 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE YOUTH SOCCER AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002.

Resolution No. 2004-181 was adopted approving an application through the competitive grant process for 2002 Resources Bond Act funds for the Recreational Development Program.

Resolution No. 2004-181 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM.

Resolution No. 2004-182 was adopted approving an application through the competitive grant process for 2002 Resources Bond Act funds for the State Urban Parks and Healthy Communities Program.

Resolution No. 2004-182 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE STATE URBAN PARKS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ernest Armenta spoke about City staff performing the duties of the Economic Development Association, and not contracting the services out. He also spoke against the recent City Council decision of denying the proposed Asuncion housing development project.

Bob Ziener thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers Patino and Trujillo for their support in the 9-11 "Prayers for Peace" breakfast. It was a great way to kick off the Centennial with prayers and thanksgiving. He also spoke in support of the Economic Development Association.

Hinda Beaman spoke regarding the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Library. She indicated that the annual chicken barbecue sales raised $7,500 toward the matching grant funds of $12,500 from the Santa Barbara Foundation to pay for wireless laptop computers for the Library.

Salvador Gascon spoke against the recent City Council decision of denying the proposed Asuncion housing development project.

Hector Gonzalez spoke in favor of fluoridation and against Measure W2004.

PRESENTATION OF THE SANTA MARIA CENTENNIAL GERANIUM

Councilmember Patino stated that in 1964 the Santa Maria Valley Beautiful requested the City adopt the Geranium as the official flower of the City. The Geranium was officially recognized as the City Flower on February 17, 1964. Santa Maria Valley Beautiful participated in the "Geranium Project" to renew interest in the City Flower, and encouraged geraniums be planted in an abundance during the national "Make a Difference Day" events to symbolize Santa Maria's beauty and vitality. As part of the project, Robert Burridge and Vickie Andersen have created two paintings illustrating geraniums. Santa Maria Valley Beautiful and the Central Coast Geranium Society would like to designate a specific variety of geranium as the "Santa Maria Centennial" in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the City's incorporation. The "Santa Maria Centennial" is an ivy zonal cross, which is vigorous, blooms continually, and has natural resistance to most geranium pests. The plant will be available to the public in the spring of 2005 by Grandview Geranium Gardens and will be available exclusively in the Santa Maria Valley throughout the Centennial Celebration. The City Council accepts the "Santa Maria Centennial" Geranium to commemorate the historic 100th anniversary of Santa Maria's incorporation.

Bill Orndorff, representing Santa Maria Valley Beautiful, spoke about the organization's efforts to support the "Geranium Project" and encouraged businesses throughout the community to plant the geranium to help make Santa Maria an even more beautiful place to live.

Debby Lipp, representing Central Coast Geranium Society, spoke about the organization's efforts to renew interest in the geranium and is encouraged by the City Council's support of the "Geranium Project." She is excited about the new variety of geranium produced for the City.

Bill Orndorff spoke of Councilmember Patino's involvement in making contact with David Lemon, Grower and Greenhouse Master of Geraniums in Lompoc. Mr. Lemon then contacted Jim Zemcik in Orange County. Mr. Zemcik created the specific variety of geranium.

Jim Zemcik spoke of his interest in the "Geranium Project," and personal pleasure to be apart of such an exciting project. He noted that the project was not without its challenges which

included significant time constraints. He has also enjoyed working with Councilmember Patino, Bill Orndorff, and Central Coast Geranium Society in getting the plant to the City. He hopes for continued enjoyment of the new geranium.

Each Councilmember was presented with a "Santa Maria Centennial" geranium, and then Councilmembers thanked Santa Maria Valley Beautiful and Central Coast Geranium Society for their efforts. The City Council encouraged the planting of geraniums in home gardens to celebrate the centennial. Over 100 geraniums have been planted at the intersection of Cook and Broadway by the Recreation and Parks crews to kick off the planting effort.

Item 6, Appointment to the All-America City Committee, was moved before Item 5, Presentation by Dave Mullinax of the League of California Cities on supporting Proposition 1A, at Mayor Lavagnino's request.

APPOINTMENT TO ALL-AMERICA CITY COMMITTEE

Mayor Lavagnino indicated that one appointment would be made to the All-America City Committee to fill an unexpired term ending January 2005, due to the recent resignation of Terri Lee Coleman. One application was received from Laura Mohajer.

Mayor Lavagnino nominated Laura Mohajer to serve on the All-America City Committee.

On motion by Mayor Lavagnino, seconded by Councilmember Orach, and carried unanimously, Laura Mohajer was appointed to fill the unexpired term on the All-America City Committee through January 2005.

Laura Mohajer accepted the appointment, and thanked the City Council for the opportunity to be a member of the All-America City Committee and serve the community.

PRESENTATION BY THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ON PROPOSITION 1A

Dave Mullinax, from the League of California Cities, gave a presentation regarding Proposition IA. Representing 25 cities in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, he commented on the leadership the City of Santa Maria has provided with regard to the Proposition IA campaign. Proposition IA is the culmination of 15 years of State and local battles for local government revenues. In the early 1990's, the State began raiding local property taxes in order to meet certain obligations for State programs. Since the early 1990's only $.14 of every property tax dollar stays locally with the rest being diverted to a myriad of Statewide programs. This leaves the local governments scrambling for revenues in order to provide the services that the community expects, i.e. public safety, road maintenance, and parks and recreation. The City of Santa Maria took a leadership position in the effort to gather over one million signatures for Proposition 65 that would prevent the State from raiding local revenues beginning this year, if successful. Once the signatures were submitted to the Governor, Governor Schwarzenegger wanted to make a compromise deal with the cities. The compromise negotiations lasted several months. The Governor requested that the local cities, counties, special districts, schools and city colleges submit to two years of revenue cuts in order to mend the revenue deficit the State is currently facing. The local governments agreed to negotiate with the Governor and accepted his compromise proposal. Proposition 1A is the compromise proposal. It is 1 of 16 initiatives on the Statewide ballot in November 2004, and 1 of 3 that the Governor is co-chairing. The Governor is opposing the two gaming initiatives and he is supporting Proposition 1A, which would protect local property tax, sales tax, and VLF revenues from being raided in the future. Proposition 1A would be a Constitutional Amendment. It would mandate that the State can only borrow from local governments twice every ten years and be required to pay back the debt with interest within three years. Additionally, it would mandate that the State could not borrow a second time without paying back the first loan, and could not borrow in the future until the money has been paid back that was borrowed three years earlier. Local governments have been seeking these constitutional protections for the last 15 years, and in the last 3 years the efforts have become more intense. Proposition IA is being endorsed by Governor Schwarzenegger, Republican and Democratic parties, police officers, fire fighters, sheriffs, highway patrol, chambers of commerce, and labor groups. The Governor held a press conference in Los Angeles during the last week, which garnered a lot of attention from the press. He is fundraising around the state, as well as at the regional level. The Channel Counties Division is performing similar types of campaign activities. With there being less than 50 days until the election in November, campaign activities will include getting information to coalition builders, gathering organizational endorsements, holding press conferences, and placing editorials in local newspapers around the area. Several fundraisers will also be held. Public funds may not be used for these

activities; they are solely paid for by private contributions. Current polling shows that Proposition IA is enjoying a 60 percent approval rate to 20 percent opposition rate. Mr. Mullinax thanked the City Council and staff for their support. He indicated that he has used the City of Santa Maria as the example to the other cities in his region to get more involved as vigorously as the City of Santa Maria has.

Councilmember Trujillo noted that individual Council members and staff have contributed generously to the campaign. At the League of California Cities conference, the City of Santa Maria had contributed more as a body than any other city within the County of Santa Barbara.

Councilmember Mariscal commented that cities have been seeking some type of legislative relief from the way the State effectively keeps money that was always meant for local services. What many people do not realize that the State collects a substantial percentage of all the taxes that are generated within California. Proposition 1A is strongly supported by not only the League of California Cities, but also by the statewide associations which includes every county and special district in the State of California. This is a cohesive, united front of local government entities that is saying to the Legislature in Sacramento that all we want are the monies to which we were entitled to. Proposition 1A does not raise taxes, and it does not take away from other funding sources that the State still has obligations to.

Assistant City Manager Haydon discussed that Proposition 1A is a bipartisan agreement between the Governor's office and both sides of the Legislature, local government leaders, police officers, public safety officials, healthcare advocates and community leaders from the county, city and special district levels. Proposition IA would end the practice of State raids on local property tax, prevent the State from taking or borrowing local sales and use taxes, and constitutionally guarantee VLF to be used for city services. With the Governor being the leading proponent for this Proposition, the presidents of the California Sheriffs' Association, the California Fire Chiefs Association, the League of California Cities, and County Supervisors Association of California (CSAC) also joined him. The City does not normally take a position on Statewide ballot measures, unless it will have a direct financial impact on the City. The passage of Proposition 1A is crucial to the City's financial condition, as well as that of other local governments.

Mayor Lavagnino encouraged all voters to vote in favor of Proposition 1A. He also asked the Staff Writer for the Santa Maria Times to encourage editors to print a favorable editorial and encourage its readers to vote in favor of Proposition IA.

Ernest Armenta spoke in opposition to Proposition 1A. He asked Mr. Mullinax what State programs, where local tax dollars were being used, had funding taken by the State. He spoke about needing a legislative committee to discuss the issues on the ballot. He commented that Proposition 1A would raise the VLF.

Mayor Lavagnino asked that Mr. Mullinax speak with Ernest Armenta to help answer some of his questions.

Mr. Mullinax stated that Proposition 1A does not increase taxes, and it also does not affect Proposition 13 or 98. Proposition 1A caps the VLF at .65 percent, but it can be reduced below the .65 percentage rate. Proposition 1A insures that VLF will never get higher than .65 percent.

Resolution No. 2004-183 was adopted supporting Proposition 1A, on the November 2, 2004, Statewide Ballot, preventing the State Legislature from taking and using local government funds on motion by Councilmember Mariscal, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution No. 2004-183 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1A.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER
City Manager Ness reported on items for the October 5, 2004, City Council meeting including a proclamation for Fire Prevention Week; a proclamation recognizing and thanking SMOOTH for providing 28 years of outstanding transportation services within the Santa Maria Valley; a call for bids for the Rotary Centennial Park; and two bid awards for the Highway 101/Betteravia & Main Street Landscaping and Beautification project, and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Multipurpose Trail Phase 1B extending the airport bike and pedestrian trail further north toward McCoy Lane.

ORAL REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND OFFICERS
Councilmember Patino spoke about the "Prayers for Peace" breakfast for the Centennial Kick-off, the Riders at the Maldonado Center, and the opening of the time capsule at City Hall. She also commented that the Asuncion project was not affordable housing. The homes were going to be market priced estimated to cost $450,000 each. She noted that $450,000 was not affordable for most of the community.

Councilmember Mariscal reported on his attendance at the League of California Cities conference. He indicated that the City of Santa Maria is already doing a lot of what experts are professing as the paths and the methods cities should use to be successful and cutting-edge. The City of Santa Maria is a very well run city and the staff is second to none in the State. The City has always done more with less. With a ratio of employees to population that is substantially lower than any other community on the Central Coast, the City of Santa Maria provides a level of service that is superior. He further commented on the statements made about educating citizens about political issues. He does not feel it is in the purview of an elected body or city government. There are many other organizations within the community that are established for just that purpose, i.e. League of Women Voters, Republican Club, Democratic Club, and Libertarian organizations.

Mayor Lavagnino spoke about employee ratio. He indicated the City has about 4.8 employees per 1,000 constituents, with Santa Barbara having close to 11 employees and Lompoc having 7 employees. He feels that the dedication and expertise of Santa Maria's employees helps to provide more for the citizenry with fewer employees. He discussed the uncovering of the time capsule. He also discussed the Centennial Kick-off at the Elks, and that there was approximately 2,000 people present.

CLOSED SESSION
The City Council recessed at 7:51 p.m. to a Closed Session for Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Subsection (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9 to discuss Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria.

After the Closed Session, the following was announced:

Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria – Status report.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:31 p.m. by order of Mayor Lavagnino.

APPROVED October 5, 2004
Date

Deputy City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria
and ex officio Clerk of the City Council

ATTEST
Deputy City Clerk

Mayor of the City of Santa Maria